

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNICEF, US, VS, VN
SUBJECT: UNICEF ASSISTANCE FOR NORTH VIETNAM AND PRG

FROM AMBASSADOR BUFFUM FOR AMBASSADOR SCALI

REFS: A. USUN 4098; B. SAIGON 13294; C. STATE A-7682

1. WHILE WENZEL'S TESTIMONY TRANSMITTED REF C DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS ISSUE OF U.S. POLICY REGARDING UNICEF'S USE OF U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO ITS GENERAL RESOURCE FUND, THRUST OF STATEMENT CLEARLY IMPLIES THAT WE DO NOT OPPOSE USE OF SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUND UNICEF ACTIVITIES IN DRV AND PRG AREAS. THIS MODIFICATION OF OUR POLICY WHICH HAS EVOLVED OVER PAST FEW MONTHS STEMS FROM A THOROUGH-GOING REVIEW OF OUR POSITION IN CONNECTION WITH WENZEL TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES AND MIGRATION LAST JULY.

2. IN THE COURSE OF THIS REVIEW, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT:
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A. CURRENT STATUTORY PROHIBITIONS AGAINST U.S. AID

TO THE DRV DO NOT PRECLUDE U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO
GENERAL RESOURCE FUNDS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
LIKE UNICEF WHICH CONDUCT BROAD HUMANITARIAN

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS THAT MAY INCLUDE NORTH
VIETNAM.

B. SIMILARLY, ONCE WE MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO A GENERAL
RESOURCE FUND WE HAVE NO LEGAL BASIS FOR
PLACING RESTRICTIONS ON ITS USE. THIS IS IN
CONTRAST TO OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL APPEAL
PROGRAMS WHICH WE CAN AND DO EARMARK FOR SELECTED
RECIPIENTS.

C. FROM A POLICY POINT OF VIEW UNICEF'S USE OF
GENERAL RESOURCE FUNDS, INCLUDING U.S.
CONTRIBUTIONS, FOR HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS IN THE
DRV AND PRG DOES NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT U.S.
INTERESTS.

3. WITH REGARD TO POINT C ABOVE, WE WOULD NOTE THAT
U.S. PUBLIC POSITION IS TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDOCHINA
TO HELP BIND UP WOUNDS OF WAR AND REDUCE TENSIONS
IN AREA. AS AN EXPRESSION OF THIS POLICY, WE HAVE
AGREED TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO SPECIAL
APPEAL PROGRAMS OF THREE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
(UNICEF, UNHCR AND ICRC). FURTHER, UNICEF DIRECTOR
LABOUISSSE HAS INFORMED US THAT EXPENDITURE OF UNICEF
GENERAL RESOURCE FUNDS WILL BE CONDUCTED SO THAT MORE
THAN ONE-FOURTH (WHICH IS THE PERCENTAGE OF U.S.
CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL RESOURCES) WILL BE SPENT IN THE
RVN. IT CAN BE ARGUED, THUS, THAT U.S. FUNDS FROM GENERAL
RESOURCES WILL NOT BE USED TO SUPPORT ACTIVITIES IN
COMMUNIST AREAS. FINALLY, LABOUISSSE HAS GIVEN US
ASSURANCES THAT HE WILL DO ALL HE CAN TO INSURE THAT
ALLOCATION OF ALL FUNDS UNDER UNICEF'S INDOCHINA
PROGRAMS WILL BE ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL NEED AND WILL
PRESERVE A PROPER BALANCE AMONG RVN, DRV AND PRG.
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4. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, WE BELIEVE WE CANNOT CONTINUE
TO EXPRESS OUR OBJECTION TO UNICEF'S USE OF U.S.
CONTRIBUTIONS TO GENERAL RESOURCE FUNDS FOR PROGRAMS IN
THE DRV AND PRG.

5. DURING A MEETING IN THE DEPARTMENT OCTOBER 21
ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM ADVISED LABOUISSSE THAT HE
HAD MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. NATIONAL
COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF AND HAD INFORMED THEM OF THE ABOVE

DESCRIBED MODIFICATION IN OUR POLICY WITH REGARD TO
UNICEF USE OF U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL RESOURCE
FUNDS. AT THE SAME TIME AMBASSADOR BUFFUM REITERATED

OUR INSISTENCE THAT UNICEF ACTIVITIES IN PRG AREAS BE
CONDUCTED IN A MANNER SO NOT TO IMPLY RECOGNITION OF
THE PRG AND THAT THERE BE A REASONABLY BALANCED
ALLOCATION OF UNICEF FUNDS AMONG THE RVN, DRV AND THE
PRG.

6. IN VIEW OF OPPORTUNITY THAT BUFFUM HAD TO
DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH LABOUISE, WE BELIEVE IT IS NO
LONGER NECESSARY FOR USUN TO CONVEY THIS INFORMATION
TO HIM. IF USUN CONSIDERS IT ADVISABLE TO PROVIDE HIM
WITH A COPY WENZEL TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE REPORT
IS PRINTED, MISSION MAY DO SO. INGERSOLL

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